



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

Tuxedo Park Tree Advisory Board members: Chiu Yin Hempel (Chair), Dena Steele, Jack Kilgore, Christopher Gow, Jeff Voss (DPW), Fred Rella (Village Grant Writer), Mary Jo Guinchard (Trustee Liaison)

ALERT

Emerald Ash Borer has joined the Woolly Adelgid in killing our trees! Oak Wilt may be another potential threat! Learn how to identify these and other tree diseases and to prevent them.

SAVE THE DATE

September 23, 9AM for a seminar on tree diseases and invasive species management.

Did you know?

- To protect the safety of our drinking water, we should plant/maintain shrubs and trees along the shore of Tuxedo Lake to stop soil erosion and storm water runoff carrying pollutants from roads and lawns into the water. See www.tptreeboard.org/resources for a suggested list of beautiful native shrubs and trees that won't obstruct your views.
- Our forest is classified as "old mature" with very little natural new growth because of the deer. A startling illustration: only a dozen saplings have been found in the 21-acre Race Track! If we don't deliberately replant to replace aging, dead or diseased trees, our landscape would be quite barren in 30-50 years, thus diminishing the rustic beauty of Tuxedo Park, threaten our water quality and negatively impacting the real estate value.
- We should not prune trees between June and September to minimize spreading of tree diseases and disturbing nesting birds.

What has the Tuxedo Park Tree Advisory Board (TPTAB) been up to?

- Launched a website dedicated to providing you with helpful information about caring for trees and the environment. www.tptreeboard.org is updated monthly.
- With the collaboration of the Tuxedo Park Garden Club, planted 150 trees and shrubs, donated by the NYS DEC through their "Trees for Tribs" program, along the banks of Augusta Brook, a tributary of the Ramapo River which provides drinking water to millions in NY and NJ.
- Ongoing removal of dead trees (but leaving enough dead wood for wildlife habitat and soil quality!) on Village-owned land, beginning with eight large trees along Tuxedo Road.
- Brought the community together to celebrate 2016 Arbor Day at an event funded entirely by donations. Please visit www.tptreeboard.org/news for details on the day.
- Implementing a multi-year plan to transform the Race Track into our very own Nature Preserve. See reverse page for details.

Tuxedo Park Race Track Preserve: an all-season nature sanctuary

The TPTAB is thrilled to announce that, with the consent of the Board of Trustees and encouragement of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), we are transforming the 21-acre Race Track into a Nature Preserve! This will be a multi-year community project funded by private donations and government grants.

The aesthetic vision calls for a wide meadow of native flowers and grasses blooming from spring to autumn at the center of the bowl-shaped depression. The perimeter slopes and uplands will be forested by majestic mature trees and a healthy understory of young trees and native shrubs.

Walking paths, viewing points, and historical and botanical plaques will offer enjoyment to residents as well as educational opportunities for local school children. The Nature Preserve will also provide invigorated habitats for the wide array of flora and fauna which already live there or use it during migration. This enhanced view corridor will emphasize the signature rustic character of our Village and delight the senses of residents and visitors alike.

In the coming months, working with Trillium Invasive Species Management Inc., we will remove invasive plants including Phragmites, Japanese Knotweed, Japanese Angelica Tree and Miscanthus that are depriving native vegetation of soil, nutrients, water and sunlight. This removal phase will be followed by replanting activities spanning several years directed by a landscape design firm, and a maintenance program thereafter. An open bidding process started earlier this year guides the selection of these professional services firms.

Meanwhile, **the Deviners**, a group of six volunteers have been cutting strangling vines off trees every Saturday! (**More volunteers are welcome and needed! Please contact tptreeboard@gmail.com.**) The DPW is also periodically mowing the existing circular path to enable access by residents interested in seeing the progress. (It is important to stay on the path.)

The Race Track was the site of the Tuxedo Park Horse Show during the Gilded Age. Abandoned since the 1940s, nature has claimed it as a biodiverse sanctuary: more than 300 trees and plants have been identified by naturalist John Yrizarry, environmental consultant J.G. Barbour and Bowman Hill Wildflower Preserve. Some 200 species of bird nest there or use it as a flyway, while countless mammals, reptiles, amphibians and butterflies call it home. This level of biodiversity is rare in the Lower Hudson Valley. Water draining from the surrounding hills has created wetlands that feed into Augusta Brook, a tributary of Ramapo River which provides drinking water to millions in NY and NJ. The trees and shrubs along the Tuxedo Road and Clubhouse Road embankments are instrumental in providing structural support to these much traveled public roads and in managing storm water runoff.

Pierre Lorillard IV founded a rustic retreat to revitalize the body, mind and soul. As environmental stewards, we are privileged to honor and to continue his legacy.